

Training workshop of the National Adaptation Plans (PNAD) from 4 to 7 September 2017 San Jose, Costa Rica

Experience of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1. Key Vulnerabilities.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has a privileged geography to be located in the northern most part of South America, which gives wide diversity of ecosystems over 27 climatic zones, with 650 types of natural vegetation, 23 landforms, and 38 large geologic units. However, these privileges do not exempt it a highly vulnerable country to the phenomenon of climate change especially in areas related to food production, ecosystems, biodiversity, water resources, and human health.

Approximately 60% of the population lives at the north of the country, where the average annual rainfall is around 1,100 mm, these areas are semi-arid climates dry sub-humid, which means that several major reservoirs for urban water supply are highly vulnerable to changes in precipitation levels. In addition, mudslides, landslides and mudslides may occur causing loss of homes, lives, crops, roads, and infrastructure destruction, water pollution, spread of diseases, among other effects.

Venezuela is also highly vulnerable to the phenomenon known as La Niña and / or child, the latter produced one of the most extreme drought, with severe impact on the system of reservoirs and dams for irrigations, hydropower and human consumption, increasing vulnerability of the various national production systems, and the loss of land due to erosion.

The coastal areas are threatened by increased variability of mean sea level, which is estimated to increase between 50 centimeters and one meter high. Associated with this increase, erosion on sandy beaches, decreased biodiversity and coastal ecosystems is expected (coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangrove forest) including affected communities stationed in this geographical area as a result of increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.

2. ODS being served by the country.

Currently, Venezuela has included in its national policy the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030. In this context, it signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in order to support the institutions of the State implementation of Agenda 2030, made up of 17 Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), by developing national capacities, through linking ODS with national public policies and monitoring the impact of planning perspective human development and multidimensional approach.

3. National adaptation policies; commands / directives, etc.

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela establishes in Article 127 that is an individual and collective right to enjoy a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Also the CRBV stipulates that "everyone is entitled to protection by the State through the citizen safety organs regulated by law, in situations that constitute a threat, vulnerability or risk to the physical integrity of persons, property, the enjoyment of their rights and fulfill their duties "(Article 55).

Organic Environmental Law 2006, Article 23 includes as part of the planning guidelines for environmental integration into these systems risk prevention.

Act Integrated Risk Management Socio-natural and Technological (2009) establishes a National Council for Comprehensive Risk Management Socio-natural and technological changes that have competence in formulating activities impact assessment, threats, vulnerabilities and national adaptation strategy to climate change.

Second Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Nation 2013-2019 stipulates, in the great historical Objective 5 that is essential in these times of global crisis, joining efforts to boost global character movement in order to contain causes and reverse the effects of climate change occurring as a result of predatory capitalist model development of national and local mitigation plans and adaptation to climate change.

Decree No. 2214 dated 23 April 1992, by which the Regulations for the Administration of Forestry are issued in Forest Reserves, Lots Boscoso, wooded areas under protection and forest areas on private land Aimed at Forest Production Permanent.

Plan and Integrated Coastal (POGIZC) Areas of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela Management, which establishes the framework for spatial and temporal reference that will ensure conservation, use and sustainable use of coastal areas and will raise the quality of life of its inhabitants. To do this, it defines 10 Programs for Integrated Coastal Zone Management of generating a series of technical documents relevant for reducing vulnerability to Climate Change

The elected Constituent National Assembly on July 30, 2017 incorporated among the topics to regulate Objective 9 which aims to address the issue of climate change, adaptation and mitigation.

4. Topics / adaptation priority sectors.

One of the priority sectors in Venezuela is represented by water resources and adaptation against climate phenomenon called "girl and boy" and its effects that generate severe droughts, affecting the reservoirs that supply drinking water to the country and generation system hydroelectric and some agricultural crops could not be harvested the sea level rise will threaten coastal areas in Delta Amacuro, Zulia, Falcón, Nueva Esparta, among others. In addition landslides could occur as in the state of Vargas in 1999.

These phenomena have caused between 1987-2008 about 1429 extreme weather events (floods, river floods, heavy rains, mudslides and droughts), which resulted in 378 deaths, 7,943 homes destroyed, 41,319 homes affected, damaged 187,110 hectares of crops, 411 km of roads affected by, among other consequences. On average recorded at the national level, one (1) greater climatic event every eighteen (18) months, with the states most affected, Miranda, Capital District, Zulia, Anzoategui, Vargas, Aragua, Tachira, Carabobo, Bolívar and Merida is say, much of the most densely populated states.

Water stress generated by the intensification of El Niño as a result of climate change has

highlighted the vulnerability of the national electricity system, noting that between 60% and 72% of the electricity consumed in Venezuela comes from hydroelectric complex Caroni in State Bolívar (Guri, Tocoma, Macagua I, II and Caruachi Macagua), whose generation capacity was severely compromised by severe drought.

In 2016 the drinking water reservoirs had not yet recovered from the impact of 2010, so the state had to invest huge sums to remove the dead volume of the reservoirs and treat it appropriately, with huge impacts on water quality for consumption of the population.

In this vein, food production is particularly vulnerable because in Venezuela 94.3% of agricultural use is carried out under dry conditions, ie, watering depends on rainfall. This has meant the loss of crops by floods or prolonged droughts, affecting the ability to achieve the ambitious goals on security and food sovereignty.

Venezuela has an energy matrix based mainly on hydropower from Hydroelectric Complex Caroni, which generated up to 72% of the electricity consumed in the country. The impacts of climate change have reduced the potential Hydroelectric Complex Caroni, forcing the Venezuelan government to invest own resources in adaptation measures that reduce our vulnerability to drought, which paradoxically involves the construction of systems of thermoelectric generation based gas..

5. Progress in PNAD:

The Law on Socio-Natural Risk Management and Technology published in Official Gazette No. 39095 of January 9, 2009, established by Article 10 National Council for Integral Socio-Natural Risk Management and Technology has the following functions:

1. Establish guidelines for reducing socio-natural and technological hazards in the formulation of plans, programs and national, state, municipal, local, community, sectoral and special development of the nation.
2. To approve the mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the general guidelines for reducing socio-natural and technological hazards.
3. To approve the general guidelines for coordinating emergency management and disaster.

4. Promote specific plans and programs aimed at reducing existing risk conditions in the nation.
5. Establish strategies for institutional strengthening of all organs and public entities, both in reducing socio-natural and technological hazards and preparedness and response to emergencies and disasters.
6. Encourage the creation of information systems that support serve to improve the technical capacity of institutional actions and ensure the availability of historical information and access to experiences on the subject.
7. Encourage the development of educational and informational processes aimed at preventing socionatural insert and technological risks in institutional and civic culture.
8. Establish the formation of working committees and specialized multidisciplinary teams to carry out actions related to compliance with the national policy of integrated management of socio-natural and technological hazards.
9. Promote the development of regulations required for the implementation of the national policy of integrated management of socio-natural and technological hazards.
10. Promote mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the actions foreseen in the reconstruction plans that run in areas affected by disasters.
11. Encourage active and ongoing participation of the National, State and Municipal Public Power in matters relating to the integrated management of socio-natural and technological hazards.
12. To approve the mechanisms to ensure the direct participation of citizens in matters relating to the integrated management of socio-natural and technological hazards in their community.
13. To approve the creation of mechanisms and indicators to assess the management of socio-natural and technological hazards, emergencies and disasters at various levels of the National Public Power Municipal, State and.
15. To approve the general guidelines for the operation and content of the National Registry

of Information for Integrated Socio-Natural Risk Management and Technology.

The Council is composed of the President of the Republic who presides, and holders of ministerial offices of popular power corresponding to the areas of planning, development, planning; domestic policy; health, security and defense; housing and habitat; environment; infrastructure; and science and technology; a representative of the governors and other mayors, the National Fire Coordinator, National Director of Civil Protection and Disaster Management and the Technical Secretary or Technical Secretary of the National Council for Integral Socio-Natural Risk Management and Technology.

Despite the great efforts made by the country in order to develop the National Adaptation Plan, there have been obstacles that have prevented initiate this process; However, recently (August 2017) High-level Workshop was conducted on Green Climate Fund (GCF) for senior officials of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The aforementioned workshop were aimed at sensitizing the highest authorities on the need to create an institutional framework Climate to access financing GCF also with the participation of resident representatives in Venezuela of the Organization of the United Nations Food and agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) and Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

6. National adaptation initiatives.

Venezuela, in its fight against climate change, has taken large-scale measures have enabled assist and protect the affected population, minimize damage and reduce vulnerability to a high cost to the nation, such as:

Oil industry: They have been implemented compensatory measures associated with projects PDVSA and ordered environmental legislation, the oil industry has undertaken the establishment and maintenance of compensatory forests in a total area of 14,423 hectares. These agroforestry (compensatory forest production and protection) function as carbon sinks.

Phasing out of substances that deplete the ozone layer: Phasing out the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer and affect climate change, in compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Electric power: updating the legal framework and incentives for energy efficiency: Law rational and efficient use of energy; Resolutions on Energy Efficiency for Public and Private Sector; Technical Regulations on energy efficiency parameters in electrical appliances, Standards energy efficiency labeling; electricity tariffs staggered according to consumption, import ban inefficient devices, reduced power consumption in the public sector (12%) and private (8%) by establishing economic incentives and tiered rates. among other measures aimed at minimizing the impact. updating the legal framework and incentives for energy efficiency: Law rational and efficient use of energy; Resolutions on Energy Efficiency for Public and Private Sector; Technical Regulations on energy efficiency parameters in electrical appliances, Standards energy efficiency labeling; electricity tariffs staggered according to consumption, import ban inefficient devices, reduced power consumption in the public sector (12%) and private (8%) by establishing economic incentives and tiered rates. among other measures aimed at minimizing the impact. Technical Regulations on energy efficiency parameters in electrical appliances, Standards energy efficiency labeling; electricity tariffs staggered according to consumption, import ban inefficient devices, reduced power consumption in the public sector (12%) and private (8%) by establishing economic incentives and tiered rates. among other measures aimed at minimizing the impact. Technical Regulations on energy efficiency parameters in electrical appliances, Standards energy efficiency labeling; electricity tariffs staggered according to consumption, import ban inefficient devices, reduced power consumption in the public sector (12%) and private (8%) by establishing economic incentives and tiered rates. among other measures aimed at minimizing the impact.

Living place: Creation Housing Mission, which is a response to loss and damage from extreme rainfall for nearly thousands of people affected and reduced vulnerability to the effects of climate change, until August 2017 1,729,527 homes have been delivered.

Transport: Implementation of the Transport Mission, Whose implementation will involve more efficient use of transportation and improving and updating the fleet resulting in greater efficiency and lower emissions. Currently, CA Metro de Caracas executes a set of expansion projects lines, as in the case of line 5 (12.5 Km and 10 stations) and Caracas System - Guarenas - Guatire (30 Km 7 stations). Also carried out the renovation and refurbishment of Line 1, these works are complemented by two projects, which constitute auxiliary transport solutions to the Metro system, as is the Mariche Metrocable and cabletren bolivariano Bolivariano.

Currently under construction is Line II of the Metro System Los Teques, which will run from the Ali Primera Station, located in the El Tambor to San Antonio de los Altos, have a length of 12 kilometers and will be distributed by six (06) stations , which will tour the Guaicaipuro, Carrizal and Los Salias municipalities. It is also under construction Metro Line 2 System Valencia, in Carabobo state capital, which will stretch 4.3 kilometers and will benefit approximately 1,800,000 people.

Reducing climate risks in agricultural activities: Calendars setting Planting by the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (Inameh), to minimize risks in agricultural production and proper management of water and supplies in general, as key factors in achieving full food sovereignty.

Prevention and Control of Forest Fires: development of a policy for the protection of the National Parks and Natural Monuments, mainly forest species found within these areas.

Mission Tree: It is an ambitious national reforestation plan promoted by the state since 2006 where communities (Community Councils, Committees Conservationists, schools, etc.) and public institutions involved.